



**Session III**  
**Effective Partnerships for Implementing the SDGs**  
**2:00-4:30 pm**  
**Wednesday, 22 February 2017**

**“Effective partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway: what works, what’s new and what has been done at the international level**  
**Venue: Plenary Ballroom A&B**

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Good afternoon,

Partnerships are something very familiar to the ILO because it is a unique feature enshrined in the Constitution and structure. The tripartite nature of the ILO, through which governments share responsibility with workers’ and employers’ ensures that all activities that we do are carried out in partnership with business and labour. In other words, for the ILO, partnerships are part of the organization’s DNA.

The SIDS face many unique challenges which are well identified -widening inequalities, changing patterns of work, informality, youth employment, etc. But given these challenges and the prevailing circumstances of the global economy, it is critically important to ensure that strong partnerships are generated to assist SIDS in reaching their development objectives.

The ILO recognizes that significant financial resources will need to be mobilized to achieve the SDGs particularly in SIDS, but success will also require significant support through non-financial means as well.

As a normative agency, the ILO recognizes that partnerships to encourage compliance and respect for labour standards and the protection of workers through effective social dialogue is equally critical. And this is one of the central point’s I would like to emphasize. The value of good industrial relations and social dialogue can encourage more effective Partnerships to achieve the priorities and development objectives set out in the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs. The follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda aspires to be an inclusive and participatory endeavor, and social dialogue is a means to ensure that this is the case.

Social dialogue and industrial relations find a fairly solid historical base within the Caribbean SIDS whereas in the Pacific, historically a number of countries have not had a culture of tripartism and social dialogue with respect to labour and employment matters. However, there is a growing number of countries that have formally established tripartite labour bodies. And

this is something the ILO would cite as an opportunity for strengthening as we move towards partnering to implement the SDGs. In the last three years, the establishment of tripartite bodies in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Samoa, and to some extent Kiribati, signal a move in this direction.

The need for bottom-up interventions and partnerships that respond to local needs through effective dialogue with business and labour cannot be overemphasized. Whether through a skills development partnership in Timor Leste, a child labour through education partnership in Fiji, or a regional social dialogue project in the Caribbean, all such partnerships that the ILO is involved in, involves the social partners – either in the design and or in the implementation – often both. It is our firm conviction that without active and strong labour market institutions, social dialogue and collective bargaining, meeting the decent work related goals and targets will prove to be very difficult.

### **Public Private Partnerships**

Realizing goal 17 on the revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development, we are firmly aware that new, enhanced and innovative partnerships are needed to achieve the SDGs. There has been a lot of discussion in recent years on the role of Public Private Partnerships. Here, I would like to say a few words based on the ILO experience.

2014 and 2015 were record-breaking years for PPPs at the ILO, with 92 new partnerships signed, with funding reaching \$27,536,293. This made PPPs the fifth largest contributor to the ILO's extra-budgetary funding.

Effective PPPs are critical for helping to achieve development objectives. Yet, the ILO does not do business with everyone. It should be emphasized that engagement in PPPs requires enhanced coordination to ensure that a rights based approach is upheld, that necessary checks and balances are in place and that there is an effective monitoring system in place.

The ILO has developed specific guidelines for PPPs that have been applied since 2009. This has ensured an internal coordination of efforts and also a sound internal clearance mechanism which requires compliance through a consultation process with our social partners. This helps ensure proper vetting to ensure that those private sector entities that we engage with uphold ILO values.

Our partnerships department consults our in-house departments of employers and workers, regarding the suitability of the proposed partnership and actor(s). Both departments then provide the views of employers' and workers' organizations, as conveyed through the secretariats of the Employers' and Workers' groups of the Governing Body. If the results of the consultation are positive, formal discussions with the private sector entity will commence. If there is a doubt, the Director General may seek further clarifications and can take a decision.

This is an important lesson learned. We have found that when social partners are involved in the design and implementation, this has resulted in their further increased participation and buy-in. It also provides a high degree of oversight and monitoring which is so very critical.

Like any partnership, the ILO does not view PPPs only as a source of funding. PPPs also provide opportunities for the exchange and pooling of knowledge and information, research, capacity building, and so on to promote compliance with labour standards and promote policies in favor of decent work outcomes.

For example, in Haiti, the ILO established a better work partnership that covers all garment factories in Haiti exporting to the US market. The programme works with international buyers and supplier factories to improve factory compliance with labour laws and respect for fundamental rights in a bid to continuously improve their global supply chains. This is a unique approach to improving labour standards, promoting job creation and sustainability.

In conclusion, effective partnerships need effective partners and based on the ILO's nearly 100 years of experience, we find that this must include a voice from business and labour to ensure effective, locally tailored solutions that impact those most in need.

While the traditional development path may not always be feasible for all SIDS, a critical foundation for development and job-rich growth includes protection of fundamental rights at work and facilitating social dialogue. These decent work principles will continue to guide the ILO's partnerships and we stand ready to support our constituents and share lessons learned as we work towards the achievement of the objectives in the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs.

Thank you.